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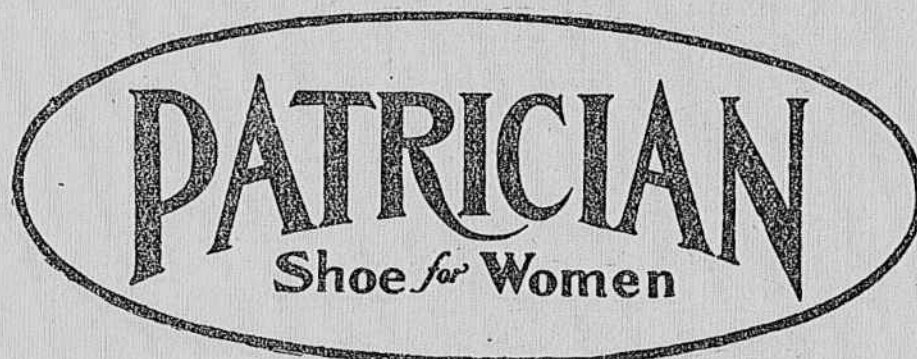
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Social Side of Washington

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
Washington, May 6.—May was ushered in at the capital city of the nation with a reception at the White House to the officers and members of the National Congress of Mothers, and its first week-end was marked by the beginning of a series of lawn fetes to be given during the month by Mrs. Taft complimentary to the new senatorial and congressional hostesses. In particular, and official society in general, on the latter occasion, Mrs. Chama Clark made her first appearance at a White House function in the role of "Mrs. Speaker of the House of Representatives" and Mrs. Oscar W. Underwood, one of the most charming of the young official matrons from the South, were gracefully the honors of leading majesty hostesses in the House circle, a place for years, and until the opening of the extra session, filled by the late Mrs. Serena Payne, wife of one of the authors of the exorbitant Payne-Adams tariff bill. Another old friend in a new role was seen in Mrs. James H. Mann, wife of Representative Mann, of Illinois, present Republican leader in the lower house of Congress. Mrs. Elihu B. Roberts, of Massachusetts, was there as president of the Congressional Women's Club, with Mrs. Crumpacker, of

Indiana; Mrs. John B. Henderson, formerly a senatorial hostess from Missouri, now a prominent resident of the city; Mrs. Elbert Hubbard, of Iowa, and Mrs. W. E. Smith, of Texas, as newly-elected vice-presidents of the same organization.
Mrs. Alice Pomeroy, wife of the new Democratic Senator from Ohio, and Mrs. Clarence Watson, whose husband defeated Senator N. B. Scott at Senator from West Virginia, were among the most beautiful of the newcomers, and each was the centre of a sprightly coterie most of the afternoon. Around Mrs. Watson were noted the riders and drivers among the smart set, who are just now mightily interested in the Horse Show of 1911 which is something of which Washington may well be proud. Pretty nearly everybody who is anybody in society sat there in their best bib and tucker, making the grandstand a sight worth going miles to see. The ring, too, presented an unusual sight, for never before has there been such a list of celebrities in any Southern horse show. A spirited bidding for a choice selection of boxes resulted in the following box-holders who entertained parties: William Phelps Eno, of New York and Washington; Edward Beale McLean, Major H. T. Allen, E. P. McGrann, Senator Wetmore, George Howard, Mrs. Charles E. Wood, Mrs. LaMontague, Mrs. Richard Townsend, Secretary and Mrs. Meyer, Mrs. Lester, Secretary and Lady Hood, Mrs. Wickersham, Mrs. William J. Boardman, who will probably have President and Mrs. Taft as her guests, whenever they attend

It was at first hoped that Miss Helen

Taft, who, like Mrs. Watson, wife of the West Virginia Senator, is a fine horsewoman, without being "horsey," might be persuaded to exhibit her splendid new mount, but she said, "Nay, nay, Pauline," to all entreaties, since she is not strong enough to do riding stunts, though she rides well and fearlessly, and may be seen almost every pleasant day galloping through the larger parks with a party of friends.
This favored daughter of the gods, leaves the White House in her pretty electric runabout and meets the groom with her mount at the edge of the city, where friends also await her coming. Her habit is of black cloth, with short, undivided skirt, close-fitting coat and derby hat, and her hair, in a close, low knot, is tied with a huge black bow in girlish effect.

Miss Taft has done much to make the spring season a shining success for the younger set. Her record of hospitalities for the first week was two dances and two dinner parties at the White House, with her house par-

ty as guests of honor. This week she is entertaining Miss Keys, of Cincinnati, with whom she made her first appearance on the occasion of "The Princeton boys' presentation of 'The Innocents,' when she was chaperoned by her mother, and accompanied by Major 'Archie' Butt, the handsome Georgian who is usually her father's bodyguard.

One of the very pretty affairs of Tuesday was the tea given by Mrs. Russell B. Harrison in honor of her sister-in-law, Mrs. James R. McKee, daughter of former President Benjamin Harrison, who is spending a fortnight renewing old acquaintances as the house guest of Mrs. Arthur Lee. Mrs. McKee, on Monday, and Mrs. Lee, had been hostesses at several dinner parties in her honor, all of which served to bring together many who were prominent in the "young married set" during the administration of Mrs. McKee's father, when she was most of the time mistress of the White House.

Miss Mary Lodge McKee, who was also Mrs. Lee's house guest this week, and Miss Martha Harrison, her cousin, were honor guests at a most attractive dinner given by Mrs. Lee Wednesday evening, when the company included most of the sons and daughters of those who were official contemporaries of the hostesses and Mrs. McKee, and as a gathering of scions of families which have known each other and been friends for at least three generations, was redolent of colonial and post-Revolutionary days, when one's grandparents were of necessity introduced before one's self.

Mrs. Taft's first garden party of the season, for which the weather man happily produced fine weather, the gathering of fashionables at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Hays Hammond, in the interest of the women's welfare committee of the National Civic Federation, an evening reception at the home with President and Mrs. Taft as honor guests, and the second afternoon program of the Horse Show,

filled yesterday's engagement book to overflowing.

The May weddings, which promise to be more numerous than those since Easter, are next on the tapis, with Miss Claire Wright, daughter of Justice and Mrs. Daniel Thew Wright, setting the ball to rolling afterward to-night, Miss Wright, the second in a trio of pretty sisters, has been such a favorite since her debut two seasons ago that one expected just the large audience which assembled in the Church of the Ascension to witness the ceremony performed by the rector, Dr. Jerning Nelms, which made her the wife of Harry Arthur Kite, of this city. Mrs. Durant Church, of New York, and Miss Alice Wright attended their sister as matron and maid of honor, respectively. Miss Annette Besuden and Miss Juliet Besuden, of Cincinnati, cousins of the bride, were bridesmaids, and most attractive figures at the reception which followed the ceremony at the Wright home in Sixteenth Street. Samuel Ross was best man, and the groomsmen were William Naylor, Samuel Kite, brother of the bridegroom, and Robert

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Another wedding of which there are many echoes is that of Miss Louise Cromwell, daughter of the late Oliver Cromwell, of New York and this city, and Mrs. Cromwell, which will take place in St. Thomas Episcopal Church in the evening of May 16. Miss Cromwell was one of the debutantes of two seasons ago, whose debut and subsequent plans for gaiety were all canceled by the sudden death of her father, and who, to quote her words, "just leaked" into society a year later. She was one of the bridesmaids at the wedding of Vivien Gould and Lord Decies, and after her own marriage and Mr. Brooks will visit Lord and Lady Decies, with whom they are invited to enjoy the coronation festivities. Lady Decies was the guest of Miss Cromwell during the past season, and was brilliantly entertained by Washington society people. Walter B. Brooks, Jr., of Green Spring Valley and Baltimore, is a Princeton graduate, a good college leader and generally popular. His family is particularly pleased over his choice of a wife, and is further pleased that the wedding is to take place so soon. Society here is not so well pleased over the latter as it means that its dear Louise will henceforth reside in the Oriole City instead of in the national capital.

One of the prettiest of the maids in the train that will escort Miss Cromwell to the altar is Miss Laura Merriam, the sprightly daughter of former Governor of Minnesota and Mrs. William R. Merriam. Miss Merriam and Miss Cromwell are both splendid horsewomen, and together they have scored the hills of "Old Virginia," radiating from the Merriam country home near Leesburg, where several other members of the bridal party have also been entertained.

The District Federation of Women's Clubs was in evidence this week, holding its annual election of officers and a May festival of song and story. The latter was under the literature com-

mittee, of which Mrs. J. Finney Engle is chairman, and embraced a series of talks on the literary work of the affiliated clubs with special reference made to similar work accomplished in the General Federation of Women's Clubs. The D. C. F. W. C. elected the following officers for the ensuing year: Mrs. William E. Andrews, wife of former Representative Andrews, of Nebraska, president; Mrs. Ellis Logan, of Illinois, first vice-president; Mrs. Randolph D. Hopkins, Virginia, second vice-president; Mrs. Sarah James, California, recording secretary; Mrs. Josephine A. Rich, Washington, D. C., corresponding secretary; Mrs. John H. Stokes, treasurer; Mrs. H. T. Guss (prominent in D. A. R. circles), auditor, and Mrs. Charlotte E. Main, formerly a D. A. R. vice-president-general, was chosen to be general federation secretary.

Miss Myrtle Grubbs, Kenneth Rine and Mrs. Wingfield, of Richmond, and Miss Sanford, of Charlottesville, were here this week for the wedding of Miss D. E. Grubbs, of Richmond, to Lieutenant James M. Rine, U. S. N., which was solemnized on Monday at the home of Mrs. J. E. Dawson. After a tour through the Empire State and Canada, Lieutenant and Mrs. Rine will settle in Washington.

Medical Director James D. Gatewood, U. S. N., and Mrs. Gatewood, the latter a native of Norfolk and frequent visitor in Richmond, will spend some time in Washington, and have taken a house in Nineteenth Street, wherein to establish their household goods until Dr. Gatewood's profession as an officer in Uncle Sam's navy calls him to another clime. The return of the Gatewoods for an indefinite stay is always welcome news to the younger set, with which the Misses Gatewood are very popular.

Mrs. Bruce, of Lexington, Va., is spending a fortnight in Washington as the guest of friends.
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